

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing apparatus of the invention refers to a color conversion table, which represents a mapping of first image data expressed in a first color system to second image data expressed in a second color system, so as to attain color conversion of first image data into second image data. The second image data stored in the color conversion table have gone through an encoding process, which enhances a variation in tone value of the second image data in a predetermined tone area while compressing the variation in tone value of the second image data in a residual tone area. The color conversion process decodes the color conversion table, reconstructs the decoded color conversion table, again encodes the reconstructed color conversion table, refers to the encoded color conversion table for color conversion, and decodes the resulting encoded second image data. This arrangement ensures highly accurate color conversion.